

## Cancelation of the 56th German-American Volksfest on Grafenwoehr Training Area

GRAFENWÖHR, GERMANY, April 30, 2013 – It is with regret that the Commander, USAG Grafenwoehr is announcing the postponement of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr German-American Volksfest for 2013. The fiscal challenges facing Nation requires the Garrison to make tough decisions. We are postponing our fest in order to focus our resources on critical services, but that does not mean we are postponing the fest forever.

Indeed, the entire Department of Defense has severely cut its expenditures to providing necessary support to deployed forces and only financing health, safety and security requirements. Other money saving measures such as the cancellation of all entertainment events in Europe, the Pacific region and the USA for this fiscal year, includes all fests, performances by the US military aerial flight and parachutist teams, the US military's participation in exhibitions with Soldiers and military equipment as well as performances of US military bands that require an overnight stay. Even 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations will be scaled back in most locations.

The Garrison Commander, Col. James E. Saenz, ensures everyone in the community that “our commitment to our Host Nation partners remains strong despite the postponement and we will actively work to reschedule the more than half-century-long tradition sometime in the near future.”

We've faced many challenges together as friends, some that have caused postponement of events, but we've always worked to open our doors to our neighbors as soon as it was possible again.

Col. Saenz personally informed the mayor of the city of Grafenwöhr, Helmuth Wächter, and the other German partners about that decision. During the meeting, Col. Saenz explicitly thanked them for their dedication and cooperation regarding the organization of the Fest which is the largest Volksfest in the region, with approx. 100,000 visitors over three days.

The extraordinary training available here at Grafenwoehr is known throughout the world. The beauty of Grafenwoehr and Bavaria, matched by the beauty of its people, are known throughout the United States Army and continue to attract the United States Army's best Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members to live and work here.

Please address your queries to the garrison spokespersons:

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